



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 6:45 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - July 17, 2001

- ***In the West***, seasonal showers continue in parts of the ***Four Corners region***, aiding summer crops and easing irrigation demands. In the ***Northwest***, drought-stressed pastures and dryland small grains are benefiting from cool weather, although soil moisture remains limited.
- ***On the Plains***, cooler weather and scattered showers are aiding drought-stressed pastures and small grains in ***Montana***. Elsewhere, hot, mostly dry weather is increasing stress on summer crops. Today's high temperatures are forecast to reach 95 degrees F as far north as ***North Dakota*** and will approach 105 degrees in many locations from ***South Dakota to western Texas***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, hot weather is expanding into ***westernmost areas (eastern South Dakota, Nebraska, southwestern Minnesota, and western Iowa)***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 95 to 100 degrees F. Meanwhile, beneficial showers are spreading across portions of the ***northern Corn Belt***, where significant rain last fell around June 20.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers continue in the ***northern Delta region***, where soil moisture is limited. Elsewhere in the region, warm weather and generally adequate topsoil moisture levels favor pastures and summer crops.

Outlook: For the remainder of the week, scattered showers are forecast to continue from the ***northern Plains into the East***, including parts of the ***Corn Belt***. Hot weather (highs above 95 degrees F) will be mostly confined to the ***Plains, western Corn Belt, and parts of the South***, while unfavorably dry conditions will persist on the ***southern Plains***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for July 22-26 calls for a continuation of hot, dry weather in the ***south-central U.S.*** Meanwhile, near- to below-normal rainfall is forecast across the ***South***. Elsewhere, near- to above-normal rainfall will help to offset the effects of hot weather in the ***Southwest, northern Plains, and western Corn Belt***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)